1   What is claimed is:

1   1. A method for scheduling development planning for a plurality of products,

2   comprising the steps of:

3   receiving as input a list of a plurality of products to be developed, and a list

4   of required completions dates for the development of each product;
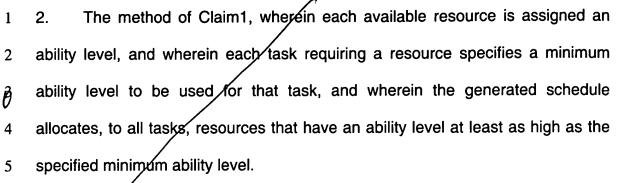
5   receiving as input one project definition for each product, the project

6   definitions each defining a plurality of tasks required to complete the project, and

7   resources required to complete each task, at least one of the tasks for at least

8   one project requiring a material to be provided by an outside party;

9   receiving as input a list of available resources, each resource having a

10   capacity as a function of time;

11   receiving as input a list of materials available from outside parties, and a

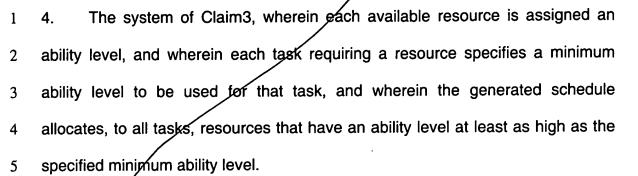12   schedule of availability of such materials; and

13   generating a schedule including all tasks for all projects, such schedule

14   allocating all resources such that each resource is allocated at a level less than

15   or equal to its capacity, such schedule also scheduling tasks that require

16   materials from outside parties at a time when such materials will be available.

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1   2.   The method of Claim1, wherein each available resource is assigned an

2   ability level, and wherein each task requiring a resource specifies a minimum

3   ability level to be used for that task, and wherein the generated schedule

4   allocates, to all tasks, resources that have an ability level at least as high as the

5   specified minimum ability level.

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1　3.　　A system for scheduling development planning for a plurality of products,

2　comprising:

3　　　　a list of a plurality of products to be developed, and a list of required

4　completions dates for the development of each product;

5　　　　a project definition for each product, the project definitions each defining a

6　plurality of tasks required to complete the project, and resources required to

7　complete each task, at least one of the tasks for at least one project requiring a

8　material to be provided by an outside party;

9　　　　a list of available resources, each resource having a capacity as a function

10　of time;

11　　　　a list of materials available from outside parties, and a schedule of

12　availability of such materials; and

13　　　　a scheduler for generating a schedule including all tasks for all projects,

14　such schedule allocating all resources such that each resource is allocated at a

15　level less than or equal to its capacity, such schedule also scheduling tasks that

16　require materials from outside parties at a time when such materials will be

17　available.

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1   4.   The system of Claim3, wherein each available resource is assigned an

2   ability level, and wherein each task requiring a resource specifies a minimum

3   ability level to be used for that task, and wherein the generated schedule

4   allocates, to all tasks, resources that have an ability level at least as high as the

5   specified minimum ability level.

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